

Mr. Roosevelt has had much to say concerning a bad trust and a good trust, but he has not yet told us the difference between the two. Indeed it is doubtful whether any republican leader would dare to undertake specifications on this interesting question.

Good and Bad Trusts.

The republican text-book says: "You do not have to guess what the republican party will do," and a newspaper bulletin issued by the democratic congressional committee makes the apt retort: "On the other hand, President Roosevelt says that he cannot promise what a republican congress will do. He says that as for his duties he knows what he will do, but he couldn't speak for congress. Isn't that the next thing to guessing?"

Next Thing to Guessing.

United States Senator J. Q. Quarles delivered a speech at Duluth recently in which he pleaded that exclusive control over the trusts be vested in the federal authority. And yet it will be remembered that in one of his speeches President Roosevelt said that in order to effectually handle this great evil it would be necessary to depend upon federal authority, state authority and municipal authority, permitting each to operate with free and unrestrained hand.

Quarles and Roosevelt.

An attorney for one of the St. Louis hoodlers referred to bribery as "a conventional crime." This attorney perhaps meant to say that the offense has become so common that it was really not a crime. If bribery has become so common that a lawyer feels justified in referring to it as "conventional," then it is high time the law be enforced so vigorously that men will understand that the people will not tamely submit to this assault upon the integrity of the public service.

A Conventional Crime.

Several republican papers have claimed that Coal Baron Baer is a democrat. The Boston Globe, in an article describing Mr. Baer, says: "He was at one time editor of the Somerset Democrat, and did not leave the democratic party until 1896." Since then Mr. Baer has supported the republican ticket and has contributed generously to the republican campaign fund. It is difficult to see therefore with what reason republican papers charge this coal baron to the democratic party.

Baer Not a Democrat.

The Chicago Tribune, republican, points out that there is a provision in the constitution of Pennsylvania which reads as follows: "No incorporated company doing the business of a common carrier shall, directly or indirectly, prosecute or engage in mining or manufacturing articles for transportation over its road." The republican party is in full control in Pennsylvania. If the party is really anxious to protect the interests of the coal consumers of the country why have the republican officials of Pennsylvania neglected to enforce this very clear constitutional provision?

Republicans are in Control.

The New York American and Journal voices a very popular appeal to the president when it says: "Do not be advised by the trusts how to deal with the trusts, Mr. President. Do not rely upon trust lawyers to interpret for you the anti-trust law. They will never fail to find reasons why you should not interfere with the privileges of monopolizing and politically influencing wealth. Resolve all doubts in favor of the people—in favor of your own power to give the country relief from a situation that is literally intolerable." Grant the prayer of the 'American's' petition: 'Enforce the Sherman anti-trust act against these public enemies. Order their immediate indictment as criminals.'

Why Not Indeed?

The Louisville Courier-Journal makes an interesting point when it says that it is a little singular that a party having several hundred thousand majority in Pennsylvania should have been so long in discovering the following provision in the Pennsylvania constitution: "The existence of the right of eminent domain shall never be abridged or so construed as to prevent the general assembly from taking the property and fran-

Why Not Enforce It?

chises of incorporated companies, and subjecting them to public use, the same as the property of individuals; and the exercise of the police power of the state shall never be abridged or so construed as to permit corporations to conduct their business in such manner as to infringe the equal rights of individuals or the general well-being of the state."

The Chicago Tribune, republican, says: "The repeal of the coal duties will not injure the soft coal industry, but will put a curb on the rapacity of the anthracite mine owners. They will have to lower their prices 67 cents a ton in New England and at other points which cannot easily get bituminous coal from American mines. They will be confronted by a competition long unknown to them, and they will have to meet it. The mere repeal of the duty on anthracite will not be enough. All the duties should go. If there were no duties now coal would be pouring in from Nova Scotia." The Tribune would also like the repeal of the tariff duties through which the paper trust makes its great impositions upon the newspaper publishers of the country. But if the tariff duties on paper should go for the benefit of the newspaper publishers and if the tariff on coal should go for the benefit of the coal consumers, why should not the tariff on the products of all trusts go for the benefit of the general consumers of the country?

Why not General Revision?

The readers of The Commoner, especially those who have been assisting in extending the paper's circulation through the "Lots of Five" plan, will be pleased to learn that during the sixteen weeks the plan has been in operation sixty-nine thousand subscription cards have been ordered by the paper's subscribers and the requests for these cards now being received number about one thousand per day. Quite a number of the subscription cards are yet in the hands of those who ordered them, and as the influence of the new subscribers, represented by the outstanding cards, is needed in a work The Commoner is about to inaugurate, the holders of the cards are requested to make a special effort during the next ten days to secure a subscriber for each card in their possession and to return the cards bearing the subscribers' names to The Commoner office, Lincoln, Neb. The publisher is highly gratified by the hearty co-operation of The Commoner's subscribers in extending the influence of the paper and desires in this public manner to express his appreciation of this token of approval of the paper's course by its subscribers.

Porto Ricans and Indians.

The Philadelphia Press seeks to use the condition of the Indian with relation to citizenship as a justification of the Porto Rican's attitude. The press says: "Sovereignty has never under our system necessarily conferred citizenship. If it did Indians would be citizens." The Press has probably overlooked the fact that Indians who give their allegiance to the United States are citizens and are entitled to vote. It is the Indian who maintains tribal relations and pays his allegiance to his tribe that is not recognized as a citizen. The United States demands complete allegiance on the part of its citizens and so it requires at the hands of an Indian who would be a citizen the surrender of his allegiance to his tribe. The Porto Rican is required to give allegiance to the United States, but he is not permitted to be a citizen of the United States. He is described as a "citizen of Porto Rico, a condition absolutely without parallel in the history of this country; a condition that cannot be justified by any traditions of this country or by the laws or judicial opinions prior to the present day of imperialism."

Are They Not Immune?

In a recent speech Richard Olney of Massachusetts, referring to the coal barons, said: "They are the most unblinking and persistent of law-breakers. For years they have defied the law of Pennsylvania, which forbids common carriers engaging in the business of mining. For years they have discriminated between customers in the freight charges

on their railroads in violation of the interstate commerce law. For years they have unlawfully monopolized interstate commerce in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. Indeed, the best excuse and explanation of their astonishing attitude at the Washington conference are that, having violated so many laws for so long and so many times, they might rightfully think they were wholly immune from either punishment or reproach." Mr. Olney hit the nail squarely on the head; and yet are not these coal barons justified in thinking that they are wholly immune from punishment? They know that they violate the federal anti-trust law. They know that the enforcement of the criminal clause of that law would land every one of them in prison; and yet they observe that the attorney general for the United States reports that he does not feel justified in proceeding against them under the terms of the law they have defied.

The Chicago Tribune, republican, says: "It is apparent from the speeches of the president, and of the secretary of the treasury, and of Senator Fairbanks, which are all in harmony upon this subject, that there will be no immediate or radical changes in the tariff schedules." And yet the Tribune recently said that it was a notorious fact that the tariff did shelter monopolies and that immediate and radical changes in the tariff schedules were necessary in order to protect the people and to save the republican party.

What Will the Tribune do?

The Indianapolis News, a paper that has given material aid to republican success, declares that "the tariff question is very much alive." The News says: "And the republican party of the present time is composed of hundreds of thousands of men who are thoroughly 'on to' the protectionist game. They know perfectly well that many of the tariff duties are not maintained in the interest of the people, but in the interest of great and wealthy enterprises that prey off the people." If these "hundreds of thousands" of men are "thoroughly onto the protectionist game," if they know "perfectly well that many of the tariff duties are not maintained in the interest of the people, but in the interest of great and wealthy enterprises that prey off the people," will these men continue to give their support to the republican party in the presence of the statements made by republican leaders that the tariff will not be revised by the republican party?

What of the Rank and File?

A minister of the Swedenborg church writes to The Commoner that a wrong impression was conveyed by a news item which appeared in The Commoner recently in regard to the death of Luther Marsh of Middletown, N. Y. It was stated that the deceased was a diligent student of the writings of Swedenborg, and that he was influenced through Mrs. Dis de Bar's alleged spirit pictures to make over property to her for a nominal sum. The Commoner's informant regarded this as a suggestion that the church of the New Jerusalem sanctioned spiritualism, whereas he asserts that on the contrary the teachings of Swedenborg point out "the danger of spiritualism" and "the church warns against it." He says "that it is possible the church concedes, but that it is fraught with many dangers is what it is able to show." The Commoner takes no part in discussions of a religious nature, and this correction is made only because the minister referred to felt that his church's position had been misstated.

Asks Correction Made.

The plan of vesting in the federal government exclusive control of trusts was not originated by the present leaders of the republican party. John D. Rockefeller in his testimony before the industrial commission, when asked what legislation would be advisable, said: "First, federal legislation under which corporations may be created and regulated, if that were possible." Vice President Archbold of the Standard Oil company, said: "The next great and, to my mind, inevitable step of progress in the direction of our commercial development lies in the direction of national or federal corporations." Henry H. Rogers, a Standard Oil magnate, indorsed Mr. Archbold's suggestion. John W. Gates, the steel magnate, said: "I would be very much in favor of having national charters granted." Republican leaders who insist that the tariff must be revised, but who are not at all inclined to revise it, are also very ready to adopt the form of legislation concerning trusts that is most popular with the trust magnates.

Popular With Trust Magnates.